

## Money

We don't talk about it a lot as far as asking for it goes

I have learned SO MUCH about my spiritual life through money

Jesus talked about money a lot!

Many of Jesus parables had something to do with money

The unmerciful servant

The lost sheep

The lost coin

The lost son

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Parable of the Great Feast

Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Luke 16:9-13

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 25:14-30 (The parable of the talents)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five.

'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Maybe you read this and it is about using what you have been given so that you can avoid judgment

It is reduced down to “Try harder.”

It may be inspirational like a Nike commercial or a self-help book

Is that what Jesus is saying?

“Do more or you will get judged!”

I think that Jesus is better than Tony Robbins

The truth is layer upon layer and when we wrestle with it we begin to see it differently

The Master is going on a journey and He leaves His servants ridiculous amounts of money!

This is a clue

Something is going on below the surface

This money is not an absolute gift!

*To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.*

“According to his ability?”

I have actually heard it taught that you just have to accept your fate and maybe you are a 2 talent person and you just need to do your best

Ephesians 4:7

However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.

If I had a million dollars I would give more

Luke 12:48

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

The larger picture here is that the Master is leaving His resources in the hands of His servants

He gives them very few expectations on what to do with them

Do something...

It's as if He is gambling on putting something valuable in the hands of the lowliest of servants

There is risk... and there is an expectation

To Mr. 1 bag He says "you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."

So He rolls the dice on His servants participating with the Grace, favor, blessing and gift

There is risk, on both sides

The risk is based on participation

When they do participate look what happens He says "Come and share your master's happiness!"

The Master is most concerned with participation

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Participation!

Let's look at this judgment toward Mr. 1 bag

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?"

Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest." 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

I get the impression that the Master is deeply offended that this wicked and lazy servant doesn't know the Master at all though he should

He refuses to believe that the Master is really that generous

Or maybe he is angry because he was standing in line and didn't get what the others got

No participation

Many have read this and thought that the Master is just an easily angered and demanding task master

They miss the entire point

"Look at what I have given you...all you have to do is trust that I am that good and participate with me!"

So the judgment is not even what is 'in the end'

The judgment, the consequence, the severity of the story is that you don't trust the Master, you don't participate and you will absolutely miss out on the joy and the happiness right now!

The call is to live in the abundance and participate with what He is calling us to now or we will miss out

You live stingy

You live in your fears

You live in smallness

You live according to your scorecard

You will miss out on the joy RIGHT NOW!

Put a few more filters on your life and post it for everyone and then see if you are truly happy

Yes, there is judgment but the judgment is a wake-up call to enter in to the mystery of participation in the Kingdom now

It all hinges on your participation